

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to express my concern about the pending BPL issue which is before the FCC. I have been a licensed amateur radio operator for over twenty-five years and am also the Communications Officer for my Municipal Police Department. Until now I have never thought that any issue the FCC was about to act on was important enough to write to you about. I have read extensively about the Pros and Cons of BPL and it seems the the potential negative impact that this service is likely to have on the amateur radio and public safety services will far outweigh any benefit it can provide to the general public. As you are undoubtedly aware the level of RFI that amateurs must contend with from a vast array of electronic gadgets has been steadily increasing in the past few years. This has made it increasingly difficult to receive signals in many bands on an amateur station in congested residential area. The latest proposal on BPL seems to be the final nail in the coffin of amateur radio. Tests done by the ARRL clearly indicate that the noise floor in residential areas would become so high on many bands that it would become virtually impossible to hear anything but the strongest signals on the typical amateur station. I understand that the FCC has ordained that the utility company would be required to maintain stray emissions to a "reasonable" level. While this sounds good on paper the reality is that large utilities companies can and do stall or ignore RFI complaints unless they face compelling legal reasons to correct the problem. It has been my experience that even when the utility company is responsible it can take weeks for them to address simple problems like arcing insulators, etc. It is almost certain that BPL would become an unmanagable nightmare for amateur operators and the FCC who would have to field thousands of complaints from public safety agencies, amateur operators, and shortwave listeners whose receivers would be swamped by BPL hash. I urge you to take any and all action necessary to prevent BPL from being deployed on a widespread basis in the USA.

Thank You,

Sgt. Richard Hedinger

Clark Police Department
Communications Officer

Amateur licensee; W2YQ